

Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

18 – 22 November 2019

ITEM 4: GENERAL STATEMENT – SINGAPORE

Thank you Madam Chair

1. Singapore also recognises the increasing urgency and efforts to tackle the global challenge of marine litter, given its adverse impact on marine ecosystems, livelihoods, industries, and potentially on human health.
2. We fully share the concerns of many countries that the issue of marine plastic litter and microplastics is an international one that needs to be collectively and urgently addressed.
3. We believe it is a challenge that requires an approach that must be integrated, science-based and inclusive. We recognise that there may not be a one-size-fits-all solution given the diverse national circumstances, but through a multiplicity of concerted actions undertaken in accordance with national policies, approaches and circumstances, we can take a significant step to address this global issue.
4. For an island-city state like Singapore, the issue is even more pertinent as the seas are linked to our survival and wellbeing. Singapore therefore takes the issue of marine pollution seriously. We address marine litter as part of our holistic approach to tackling pollution and waste. This includes stringent domestic legislations and regulations on pollution control and waste management, as well as an integrated solid waste management and collection system to minimise waste at source to ensure that waste is not washed into the ocean.
5. During our discussions this coming week, we urge countries to consider the wider social, environmental and economic synergistic benefits that can be gained by addressing marine litter. We also are of the view that it is important to clearly identify the sources of marine litter be it untreated wastewater, river or wind-blown. Knowing from where litter enters the marine environment can allow countries to take more focused action to address the problem. In this regard, we look forward to further discussion at this meeting and at the meetings in the lead up to UNEA-5.